

Message Text

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14

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 SCEM-02 INT-08 TRSE-00

SCI-06 NEA-10 EB-11 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 /174 W

----- 045150

R 191432Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2173

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCOMSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 10147

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, BLS, NI

SUBJECT: BLS ENERGY CRISIS

REF: MBABANE 3163 NOTAL

1. SWAZI MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY, MINES, AND TOURISM SIMON

NXUMALO ARRIVED IN LAGOS DECEMBER 12 FOR TWO DAYS OF TALKS WITH

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FMG WHICH HAVE STILL GONE UNANNOUNCED IN LOCAL PRESS. SENIOR

MEA OFFICIAL WHO CONFIRMED THAT NXUMALO HAD MET WITH FMG TACITLY

ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ENERGY WAS FOCUS OF DISCUSSIONS, BUT PROVIDED NO INFORMATION ON SUBSTANCE OF TALKS.

2. IN MORE GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON ENERGY CRISIS AFFECTING SEVERAL AFRICAN STATES, MEA SOURCE LIMITED HIMSELF TO SAYING THAT SOMETHING "MUST" AND "WILL" BE DONE TO HELP. HE ADDED SPECIFICALLY THAT ARABS UNLIKELY BE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT SWAZILAND, WHICH HAS MAINTAINED RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL, BUT ADMITTED THAT OAU STATES COULD NOT TAKE SAME CAVALIER ATTITUDE. WITH REGARD TO POSSIBILITY MENTIONED REFTEL OF SHIPPING CRUDE TO RSA REFINERY WHICH IN TURN WOULD PROVIDE PRODUCTS TO BLS, HE OFFERED PERSONAL VIEW THAT SHIPMENTS TO SOUTH AFRICA OUT OF QUESTION. SOURCE CONCLUDED WITH OBSERVATION THAT BLS CRISIS UNLIKELY BE TOO SEVERE, AS NIGERIA BELIEVES RSA TO HOLD THREE-YEAR RESERVE AND THUS BE ABLE MEET BLS NEEDS FOR SOME TIME TO COME.

3. COMMENT: IT APPEARS FROM PRETORIA 4516 (NOTAL) THAT SOURCE'S RELAXED VIEWS OF BLS SITUATION MAY BE BASED ON ERRONEOUS INFORMATION ABOUT RSA RESERVES. IN ANY EVENT, FMG EVIDENTLY HAS NOT YET DECIDED HOW TO RESPOND TO APPEALS FOR HELP FROM BLS AND OTHER OAU STATES HIT BY ENERGY CRISIS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LAGOS10147
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731216/aaaaalrg.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: MBABANE 3163 NOTAL
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25-Sep-2001 by rowellE0>; APPROVED <29-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BLS ENERGY CRISIS
TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, WZ, NI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005